DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 307 639 CS 506 520

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TITLE Teenage Television Viewing. Focused Access to Selected Topics (FAST) Bibliography No. 8.
INSTITUTION ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, Bloomington, IN.
SPONS AGENCY Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE Feb 89
CONTRACT RI88062001
NOTE 4p.
PUB TYPE Information Analyses - ERIC Information Analysis Products (071) -- 50) Reference Materials - Bibliographi

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescent Development; *Adolescents; Alcohol Abuse; Health; *Mass Media Effects; *Mass Media Use; Secondary Education; Sexuality; *Television Viewing; Violence

ABSTRACT

Surveying the television habits of teenagers, this annotated bibliography contains 30 references of articles and papers in the ERIC database. The first section, "Impact on Health, Sexual Behavior, Use of Alcohol," addresses such issues as the relationship of viewing sexual content to sexual activity and sex role acquisition, and relationships between amount of viewing and the way youth deals with stress and other pressures. Sources in the second section, "TV Violence and Teenage Behavior," examine concerns such as the relationship between media content and antisocial behavior and possible connections between fantasy violence and real-world violence. Sources cited in the section on "Impact on Other Social Behaviors" deal with TV's possible role as a socializing agent and relationships between television viewing and academic achievement. In the last section, "Viewing Habits," the sources cited examine and report on the monitoring of television viewing, parental intervention, educational uses of television, and other concerns parents and teachers are likely to have. (MS)

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Focused Access to Selected Topics
a bibliography by the
Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills

Teenage Television Viewing

by Michael Shermis

FAST Bib No. 8 RCS

While working as a group home houseparent with juvenile delinquent boys, I frequently wondered how much effect their television viewing was having on them. I watched as they viewed normal prime-time television filled with violence, sexual content, and sometimes with apparently misleading or stereotyped information. Were these programs harmful to them or helpful in their socialization? Were there any benefits to the shows they were watching? Which might be educational? Could I use the television to facilitate communication with these youths? Or was TV's only benefit that it could be a source of escape? How much TV should I let them watch? Those teachers and parents who are concerned with these questions and others will find this selection of documents from the ERIC database helpful and informative.

This FAST Bib has been divided into four sections. Sources cited in the first, "Impact on Health, Sexual Behavior, Use of Alcohol," address such issues as the relationship of viewing sexual content to sexual activity and sex role acquisition, and relationships between amount of viewing and the way youth deals with stress and other pressures. Sources in the second section, "TV Violence and Teenage Behavior," examine concerns like the relationship between media content and antisocial behavior and possible connections between fantasy violence and real-world violence. Sources cited in the section on "Impact on Other Social Behaviors" deal with TV's possible role as a socializing agent and relationships between television viewing and academic achievement. In the last section, "Viewing Habits," the sources cited examine and report on the monitoring of television viewing, parental intervention, educational uses of television, and other concerns parents and teachers are likely to have.

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Impact on Health, Sexual Behavior, Use of Alcohol

Brown, Jane D., and Gaddy, Gary D. "Television and adolescent sexual behavior." Paper presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 1983. 40pp. [ED 232 208]

Examines the relationship of the frequency of viewing sexual content on television and sexual activity among a sample of adolescents.

Durkin, Kevin. *Television, Sex Roles and Children: A Developmental Social Psychological Account*. Philadelphia: Taylor and Francis, 1985. 148 pp. [ED 272 955; not available from EDRS.]

Assembles and evaluates the main findings of recent work on television and sex role acquisition, points out gaps and limitations in present inquiry, and sketches a framework around which future research might usefully address some of the remaining questions.

Morgan, Michael, and Rothschild, Nancy. "Impact of the new television technology: Cable TV, peers, and sex-role cultivation in the electronic environment," *Youth and Society, 15* (1), September 1983, pp. 33-50.

Examines the intervening and/or conditioning roles of integration into peer groups (a traditional socializing agent) and access to new video technology via home cable viewing (a new socializing agent) in the relationship between television viewing and adolescents' sex-role images.

Peterson, Gary W., and Peters, David F. "Adolescents' construction of social reality: The impact of television and peers," *Youth and Society, 15* (1), September 1983, pp. 67-85.

Draws upon ideas about "television effects" and the adolescent peer group to illustrate how interconnections between these two socializing agents contribute to the adolescent's "construction of social reality." Examines how gender, sexual, consumer, and occupational roles as enacted by teenagers are a product of media and peer group influences.

Peterson, James L., *et al. Starting Early: The Antecedents of Early Premarital Intercourse*. Final Summary Report. Washington, DC: Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (PHS), 1985. 36 pp. [ED 263 268]

Focuses on the association between early sexual activity and, respectively, household structure; television viewing; sex education; race; and parent-teen communication.

Rhiner, Pauline. "The many pressures on children in today's world," *PTA Today, 8* (4), February 1983, pp. 5-8.

Discusses pressures that may cause stress in children and adolescents. States that shifting family patterns due to divorce or working parents, stressful situations at day care centers, busy schedules during adolescence, test anxiety at school, and watching violence on television all can increase stress for today's children.

Tucker, Larry A. "The relationship of television viewing to physical fitness and obesity," *Adolescence, 21* (84), Winter 1986, pp. 797-806.

Determines the extent to which light, moderate, and heavy television viewing relate to multiple measures of obesity and physical fitness among high school males. Shows that light television viewers scored significantly better than heavy viewers on a composite fitness index but that light viewers were not significantly less obese than moderate or heavy viewers.

Tucker, Larry A. "Television's role regarding alcohol use among teenagers," *Adolescence, 20* (79), Fall 1985, pp. 593-598.

Examines television and drinking practices of high school males to determine the extent to which adolescents classified as light, moderate, or heavy television viewers differed regarding alcohol use. Finds that heavy television viewers consumed alcohol significantly more often than did light and moderate viewers, especially the former, particularly when demographic variables were controlled simultaneously.

Van Hoose, John J., and Riddle, Denise. "Television: A major cause of undesirable behavior," *NASSP Bulletin, 67* (463), May 1983, pp. 97-100.

Finds that middle-school level students watch more television than any other age group and that they are exposed to violence, sex, use of drugs, and sex role socialization in many programs. Suggests schools can help students become discriminating consumers of television.

TV Violence and Teenage Behavior

Atkin, Charles. "Effects of realistic TV violence vs. fictional violence on aggression," *Journalism Quarterly, 60* (4), Winter 1983, pp. 615-621.

Concludes that adolescent aggression increases with perceived reality of television violence.

Dominick, Joseph R. "Videogames, television violence, and aggression in teenagers," *Journal of Communication, 34* (2), Spring 1984, pp. 136-147.

Investigates relationships among factors such as teenagers' videogame playing, watching violent television programs, antisocial behavior, and self-esteem.

A Hearing on Media Violence before the Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate (October 25, 1984). Congress of the U.S., Washington, D.C. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. 59 pp. [ED 252 322]

Contains the testimony of researchers from governmental agencies and media organizations, representatives of scientific associations, scholars, early childhood educators, and television personalities concerning the effects of televised violence on the behavior of children, adolescents, and adults.

Roberts, Churchill L. "The cultivation effects of television violence: Further testing." Paper presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 1985. 88 pp. [ED 258 277]

Explores the hypothesis that heavy television viewing, particularly the viewing of a great deal of violence, cultivates certain misconceptions about social reality. Finds that for adolescents there was only scant evidence that television might alter perceptions of social reality in a way that is consistent with its content.

Impact on other Social Behaviors

Bearison, David J., *et al.* "Developmental changes in how children understand television," *Social Behavior and Personality, 10* (2), pp. 133-144.

Examines how children's understanding of social interaction portrayed on television changes with age.

Carlson, James. "Crime show viewing by preadults: The impact on attitudes toward civil liberties," *Communication Research: An International Quarterly, 10* (4), October 1983, pp. 529-552.

Finds that students (grades 6-12) who were heavy viewers of crime shows were more likely to have anticivil-libertarian attitudes. Suggests that television entertainment may be an important source of political learning.

Comstock, George. "Education and television: The persistent challenge," *Television & Children, 5* (3), Summer 1982, pp. 9-13.

Summarizes research from the California Assessment Program (1980) and the Foundation for Child Development (1976) concerning the relationship between student academic achievement and television viewing habits.

Gantz, Walter, and Weaver, James B., III. "Parent-child communication about television: A view from the parent's perspective." Paper presented at the 67th Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 1984. 27pp. [ED 265 840]

Examines both general and specific parent-child television viewing experiences together and interactions related to television, whether the child has watched with a parent or alone.

Holosko, M. J., *et al.* "Why teenagers watch television: Implications for educational television," *Journal of Educational Television, 9* (1), pp. 57-62.

Outlines research into teenage viewing preferences which was undertaken prior to production of a television series for CITY-TV, Toronto that was designed to attract as large a teenage audience as possible, and to promote "socially responsible" attitudes. Discusses effects on instructional television programming.

Moore, Roy L., and Moschis, George P. "A longitudinal analysis of television advertising effects on adolescents." Paper presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism, 1982. 32 pp. [ED 219 753]

Examines both the short-term and long-term effects of television advertising on the development of adolescents' consumption-related orientations.

Viewing Habits

Alexander, Alison. "Adolescents' soap opera viewing and relational perceptions," *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, 29* (3), Summer 1985, pp. 295-308.

Examines the influence of duration and amount of soap opera viewing by sixth and seventh graders on their perceptions of relational fragility and importance of talk in managing relationships. Mediating variables of viewing motives, experience with peer relations, and family structure are also examined.

Campbell, Lloyd P., and Roether, Betty. "Suggested guidelines for television viewing for children and adolescents," *Contemporary Education, 55* (4), Summer 1984, pp. 220-221.

Contends that parental intervention with respect to television viewing is necessary for both young children and adolescents. Lists guidelines that give a purpose for watching television.

Compton, Mary F. "Television viewing habits of early adolescents," *Clearing House*, 57 (2), October 1983, pp. 60-62.

Disputes previous research findings that the amount of time spent viewing television declines significantly during the adolescent years.

Comstock, George, and Paik, Hae Jung. "Television and children: A review of recent research." ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, Syracuse, N.Y., 1987. 71 pp. [ED 292 466]

Reviews recent empirical research on the effects of television on children and teenagers by examining the results of two surveys which were conducted to determine the opinions of experts in the field.

Corder Bolz, Charles R. *Family Educational Use of Television*, Final Report. Revised. Washington, DC: National Institute of Education, 1982. 176 pp. [ED 231 328]

Examines families' use of home television, including educational use, and parental involvement in their children's television viewing.

Gallup, George, Jr. "Forecast for America," *Television and Families*, 8 (1), Winter 1985, pp. 11-17.

Examines views of current U.S. teenage population regarding valued traits and family-shared television viewing habits, as well as overall trends in society among the adult population. Reports on a national survey conducted to determine proportion of adults who viewed television with their children on a regular basis.

Larson, Reed, and Kubey, Robert. "Television and music: Contrasting media in adolescent life," *Youth and Society*, 15 (1), September 1983, pp. 13-31.

Reports on a study of the relationship between adolescent television viewing versus listening to youth music and participation in adult-structured segments of daily life. Finds that music is more successful in engaging youth in its world.

Lawrence, Frances Cogle, *et al.* "Adolescents' time spent viewing television," *Adolescence*, 21 (82), Summer 1986, pp.431-436.

Examines the amount of time adolescents spend viewing television. Finds that 1) adolescents viewed television 147 minutes per day; 2) employment of mother significantly affected the time adolescents spend viewing television; and 3) sex of adolescent; age of father, mother, and adolescent; education of father and mother; income of family; and day of week were not significant factors.

Selnow, Gary W., and Reynolds, Hal. "Some opportunity costs of television viewing," *Journal of Broadcasting*, 28 (3), Summer 1984, pp. 315-322.

Explores patterns of pastime activities that stand as alternatives to television viewing among middle school children.

Sun, Se Wen, and Lull, James. "The adolescent audience for music videos and why they watch," *Journal of Communication*, 36 (1), Winter 1986, pp. 115-125.

Describes patterns of exposure and motivation of adolescent sample group. Correlates findings with race, gender, involvement with peers, attitude toward school, and other personal circumstances.

Watkins, Bruce. "Television viewing as a dominant activity of childhood: A developmental theory of television effects," *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*, 2 (4), December 1985, pp. 323-337.

Provides a theoretical framework for thinking, from a developmental perspective, about the role of television as a "dominant activity" of American childhood.

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February 1989

This publication was prepared with funding from the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, under contract no. RI 88062001. Contractors undertaking such projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their judgment in professional and technical matters. Points of view or opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the official view or opinions of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement.